CLAIMS

1. A method of screening for compounds that inhibit the interaction between SF-1 and Nrip1, said method comprising assessing inhibition of the interaction between SF-1 and Nrip1 in the presence of one or more candidate compounds.

2. A method according to claim 1 comprising:
   a) mixing Nrip1, SF-1 and one or more candidate compounds;
   b) incubating the mixture to allow Nrip1, SF-1 and the candidate compound(s) to interact; and
   c) assessing whether interaction between Nrip1 and SF-1 is inhibited.

3. A method according to claim 1 comprising:
   a) contacting a cell containing a nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter operatively linked to a reporter gene with: (i) a first fusion protein comprising one of SF-1 and Nrip1 fused to the activation domain of a transcription factor, (ii) a second fusion protein comprising the other of SF-1 and Nrip1 fused to the DNA-binding domain of a transcription factor; and (iii) a candidate compound; and
   b) assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene,

wherein interaction between SF-1 and Nrip1 promotes transcription of the reporter gene by activating said promoter.

4. A method according to claim 1 comprising:
   a) contacting a nucleic acid molecule, comprising an SF-1 regulated promoter operatively linked to a reporter gene, with one or more candidate compound(s) in the presence of SF-1 and Nrip1; and
   b) assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene.

5. A method of screening for compounds that up-regulate expression of SF-1, said method comprising:
   a) contacting a nucleic acid molecule comprising a promoter from a SF-1 gene operatively linked to a reporter gene with a candidate compound; and
   b) assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene.

6. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 5, wherein the promoter controls transcription of a reporter gene with which it is linked in nature.

7. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 6, wherein expression of the reporter gene gives a detectable signal.

8. A method according to claim 7, wherein the reporter gene encodes a fluorescent protein or an enzyme.

9. A reporter gene according to claim 7, wherein the reporter gene encodes a toxic or cystostatic protein.

10. A method according to any preceding claim, wherein said method is carried out in a cell free system, a cell or a tissue.

11. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 10, wherein the nucleic acid molecule is in the form of a non-viral vector.

12. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 11, wherein the step of assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene comprises measuring the level of mRNA transcribed from the reporter gene.

13. A method according to any one of claims 3 to 11, wherein the step of assessing the level of expression of the reporter gene comprises measuring the level of protein translated after transcription of the reporter gene.

14. A method according to any preceding claim, comprising the further steps of administering to a female mammal a candidate compound found to inhibit the interaction between SF-1 and Nrip1, or to up-regulate SF-1 expression, and assessing its effect on ovulation.

15. A compound that inhibits the interaction between Nrip1 and SF-1, obtained or obtainable by a method of any one claims 1 to 4 or 6 to 13.

16. A compound that up-regulated expression of SF-1, obtained or obtainable by a method of any one of claims 5 to 13.

17. A method of assessing the anti-ovulatory effect of a compound according to claim 15 or claim 16, comprising administering the compound to a female mammal and assessing its effect on ovulation.

18. A composition comprising a compound according to claim 15 or claim 16.

19. A compound according to claim 15 or claim 16 for use as a contraceptive.

20. Use of a compound according to claim 15 or claim 16 in the manufacture of a medicament to prevent ovulation.

21. A contraceptive method comprising administering a compound according to any claim 15 or claim 16, or a composition according to claim 18, to female mammal.